

REMARKS

The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. All of the amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

In the Office Action dated 01/24/2006, claim 33 was objected to because of an informality. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's suggestion of how to correct this informality, and have adopted the suggested language through the amendments made herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication in the Office Action dated 01/24/2006 that claims 22-23, 31, and 33 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Accordingly, independent claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter previously recited in claim 31, which has been cancelled. New independent claim 40 has been added to recite the subject matter of claim 22, and should therefore be in condition for allowance. New independent claim 43 has been added to recite the subject matter of claim 33, and should therefore be in condition for allowance.

All rejected claims have been canceled or rewritten to incorporate allowable subject matter. Applicant further notes that the dependent claims include additional limitations not taught or suggested in the art of record, thus forming independent basis for novelty and non-obviousness. While Applicant has elected to accept the allowed subject matter, please do not misconstrue such acceptance as an acquiescence to the merits of the rejections. Instead, this amendment merely marks a business decision to obtain patent protection on the allowed subject matter without further prosecution in the present application. Applicant traverses such rejections and reserve all rights and arguments.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



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